



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: L.D. Baumgart et al. Examiner: 2124
Serial No.: 09/557,633 Group Art Unit: T. A. Vu
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 17, 2003.

David W. Victor

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT SUBMITTED CONCURRENTLY WITH A
REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This Amendment is submitted concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in response to the Final Office Action dated June 17, 2003, in which the Examiner rejected all pending claims 1-33 as anticipated (35 U.S.C. §102) and obvious (35 U.S.C. §103) over prior art. Applicants have amended the claims and added new claims 34-39. Applicants submit that the pending claims 1-39 are patentable over the cited art for the reasons discussed herein and in condition for allowance.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10.